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1. CONFERENCE OF NGOS IN CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (CONGO)

(General Consultative Status granted in 2002)

PART I. Introduction

i. Aims and purposes of the organization

CONGO was founded in 1948 to safeguard the rights of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in consultative status, based on article 71 of the United Nations Charter and currently on Economic and Social Council Resolution 1996/31. For over 50 years, CONGO has actively promoted the participation of civil society organizations in the work of the United Nations and its agencies. More recently, CONGO has made a major push to influence and democratize global decision-making processes. With about 500 members representing all categories of NGOs (many of which are umbrella organizations themselves), at all levels (locally, nationally and internationally) and dealing with all major issues, CONGO is a global organization and a recognized interface between the United Nations and NGOs.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

1. 58th – 61st sessions of the **Commission on Human Rights (CHR)**, Geneva, 2002 – 2005: CONGO participated every year to the Commission and organized orientation sessions for newcomers; regular briefings for NGOs; consultations and parallel events (such as the much noted one on Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals on 5 April, 2005). For the years 2003 – 2005 CONGO co-produced a website (first www.room17.org and then www.ngochr.org) featuring articles and reports on plenary meetings, NGOs parallel events, interviews with NGOs representatives and analyses. At the 59th session (17 March-25 April 2003), the President delivered a statement on regional mechanisms. CONGO actively accompanied the transition from the Commission to the Human Rights Council and the President wrote a letter to the President of the General Assembly (26 January, 2006) on the need to safeguard the rights of NGOs to fully participate in the new Council. The President also delivered a statement (12 April 2005), co-signed by 18 NGOs, during the first Informal Session on the subject of reform and a second statement in form of recommendations to the High Commissioner for Human Rights as input for her Plan of Action (29 April 2005)

2. **Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Social Forum and Working Group on Indigenous Populations.** CONGO produced newsletters and a website (www.ngochr.org) covering the events and organized an introductory meeting to the Social Forum in 2004.

3. **2nd World Assembly on Ageing**, Madrid, 7-10 April 2002: CONGO participated throughout; the President addressed the closing session of the NGO Forum and was a panellist on a round-table.

4. **NGO Fora to the Economic and Social Council High-level Segments** (HLS) (annually, New York and Geneva). In cooperation with the NGO Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and other partners, CONGO organized every year an NGO Forum (as for example on rural development on 27 June 2003 in Geneva) on the HLS' theme with the aim of impacting on the ministerial declaration adopted by the HLS. The President presented key recommendations from the Geneva Forum to the HLS on 30 June 2003 and again, after another Forum process in New York, key recommendations to the HLS on 30 June 2005. She also delivered a statement on 'Strengthening of the Economic and Sociai Council (Ecosoc) to the Coordination Segment of Ecosoc on 11 July 2002.

5. **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** (Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005). CONGO participated in all Preparatory Committees (Prepcoms) of both phases and in the two Summits. CONGO was a key actor in the creation of the Civil Society Bureau, (as interface to the Governmental Bureau) of which the President ensured the co-chairpersonship and some CONGO staff the secretariat. The President also participated in several regional and national preparatory meetings (Bucharest, 7-9 November 2002, Tokyo, 13-15 January 2003). Before and during the sessions, CONGO organized briefings for NGOs, parallel events on critical issues (including on eradication of poverty, human rights, interfaith dialogue and combating HIV/AIDS using entertainment), co-chaired the daily meetings of the Civil Society Plenary and organized the WSIS Civil Society News Centre (http://www.wsis-online.net/csnews). The President also spoke at the opening ceremony of the Geneva Summit (9 December 2003) and at the Tunis Summit, and the Programme Officer at a side-event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Throughout the process, in particular towards the Tunis phase, CONGO facilitated and coordinated the participation of NGOs and mediated between governments and civil society on sensitive issues such as human rights.

6. **World Summit on Sustainable Development** (Johannesburg, 26 August-4 September 2002). CONGO participated in two PrepComs and at the Summit itself and tried to bridge there between those NGOs who served as "major groups" at the Governmental Summit and the ones that were located very far away, at the Global People's Forum at Nasrec. CONGO was also a member of the International Steering Committee set up to organize the People Forum's official Commissions and organized one of such Commissions: 'MDGs and Sustainable Development' which included eminent speakers such as Jeffrey Sachs.

7. **56th World Health Assembly** (May 2003). CONGO created a website covering the official session and side events, www.wha.org

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

1. **Capacity building for the Informal NGO Regional Network in Africa (IRENE),** Tunis, January 2002. CONGO co-organized this meeting with the DESA NGO Section and a Tunisian NGO to launch the IRENE Network in Africa.

2. **High-level consultation and capacity building workshop for the UN NGO Informal Regional Network (IRENE) in Eastern Europe** (May 2003). CONGO was a partner with the DESA NGO Section to launch the IRENE in Eastern Europe.

3. **Annual Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO Conference**. CONGO has been invited every year to participate at the Conference, during which the President delivered a statement at the opening sessions. (for example on the theme of: "Millennium Development Goals, Civil Society takes Action" in 2004).

4. **UNCTAD XI** (Brasil, June 2004). The Programme Officer participated at the Civil Society Forum, delivered a statement at the Interactive thematic Session on Partnerships and published an article on a Swiss daily. CONGO also participated at subsequent Civil Society Hearings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Board and delivered a statement on the follow-up to commitments taken at major UN conferences.

5. **Cardoso Report on UN – Civil Society Relations:** CONGO gave input to the experts and organized, together with the Non-Governmental Liaison Service, several consultations with NGOs, in New York and in Geneva, to the Panel's recommendations.

6. **Informal interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector (23-24 June 2005)**. The President had the honour to speak at the Official Opening after the General Assembly President, Mr. Jean Ping and the Deputy Secretary–General, Louise Frechette.

iii) Activities undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

1. **International Policy Dialogue on the Millennium Development Goals** (Berlin, 27-28 June 2002). The President presented a paper on civil society and the MDGs which became the springboard for CONGO activities during the subsequent Johannesburg Summit and beyond.

2. **Asian Civil Society Forum,** Bangkok, 9-13 December, 2002. CONGO organized this forum with the support of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) under the title of "UN-NGOs Partnerships for Democratic Governance: Building Capacities and Networks for Human Rights and Sustainable Development", in order to raise the awareness of Asian NGOs about the MDGs and to assess their contribution to the Goals' implementation.

3. **Asian Civil Society Forum 2004** (Bangkok, 21-25 November 2004, UN ESCAP): "Building UN/NGOs Partnerships for Democratic Governance through the MDGs". This Forum was meant as a follow-up to the previous one and it aimed to amplify Asian peoples' voices in the global deliberation processes, by focussing particularly on the MDGs and the then upcoming Millennium + 5 event.

4. **Latin American and Caribbean Seminar** (Santiago de Chile, 1-4 June 2004). With the support of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) the Seminar took place under the heading "Partnerships for a New Era: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals" and was attended by some 130 participants, representing 120 local, national and regional NGOs from 13 countries.

5. **Millennium + 5:** CONGO co-organized the NGO input into the Millennium + 5 General Assembly review. Together with the Department of Public Information (DPI), CONGO created the **Millennium+5 NGO Network** and convened parallel NGO consultations on the Millennium +5 Summit at every major UN Commission session from January to June 2005, and launched in June 2005 the report "We Will Spare No Effort", a 'Civil Society Call to Action for the Five Year Review of the UN Millennium Summit and the Millennium Development Goals'.

6. **Regional Crime Prevention Forum for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe** (Vienna International Centre, Vienna/Austria, 27-28 October 2005). With the Support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), CONGO Vienna organized this Forum on Crime Prevention. It was attended by 138 participants and focussed on trafficking in human beings, corruption and urban crime.

iv) Activities in support of global principles

1. The President and the Programme Officer participated regularly as speakers at conferences and round-tables on UN related issues and civil society.

2. The Programme Officer gave several lectures on UN – civil society relations, UN human rights mechanisms and NGOs, the contribution of NGOs to the democratization of global governance, etc, at the Universities of Geneva and Grenoble and to visiting students of the Australian National University, Santa Clara University, Boston University and a Japanese University.

2. ECOPEACE MIDDLE EAST ENVIRONMENTAL NGO FORUM
(Special Consultative Status granted in 1998)

I. Introduction

i. Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

Eco Peace Middle East Environmental NGO Forum, commonly know as Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) is an organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists. Our primary objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage. In so doing, we seek to advance both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in our region. FoEME has offices in Amman, Bethlehem, and Tel-Aviv.

The people and wildlife of our region are dependent on many of the same natural resources. Shared surface and sub-surface freshwater basins, shared seas, common flora and fauna species and a shared air-shed are some of the characteristics that necessitate regional cooperation.

The Jordan River Basin, a major source of freshwater in a water scarce region, the Gulf of Aqaba, a highly sensitive eco-system giving life to arguably the world's most beautiful coral reef, and the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth and the world's saltiest non-shallow body of water, are all examples of unique shared eco-systems in the region which necessitate regional cooperation if they are to be preserved.

ii. Changes that had a significant impact on the organization vision and/or functions in terms of orientation, program or scope of work

New organization affiliation, 2005: Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) - a coalition of grassroots organizations which foster people-to-people coexistence in the Middle East.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings (+side events)

- World Summit for Sustainable Development, 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa; FoEME exhibited at the 'Water Dome', side event presenting water issues in the Middle East
- Preparatory Committee IV-Peoples Forum: World Summit on Sustainable Development, Side Event, 4 June, 2002, Bali, Indonesia
- United Nations Secretary General High Level Panel on Security: 2004, New York,
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, April 2004, New York,
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development - Side Event – "Protecting Shared Israeli-Palestinian Water Resources from Sewage", 27 April, 2004, New York,

- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development – Held side event together with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) – "Water, Peace and Sustainable Development – Implementing Johannesburg to Prevent and Resolve Conflicts", 29 April, 2004, New York
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, May 2005, New York

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

- UNEP extensively consulted with FoEME in its 2003 "Desk Study on the Environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories"
- United Nations Decade of Culture of Peace – 5 year report. FoEME contributed information about its "Good Water Neighbors" project as well as recommendations for the future.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) gave support and participated in FoEME's Conference "Rehabilitate the Jordan River" for World Heritage Listing of Jordan River and Dead Sea, 8 March, 2005, Peace Island, Jordan
- UNEP - participated in FoEME Conference "Rehabilitate the Jordan River", 8 March 2005, Peace Island, Jordan

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals

- The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the geographic region of the Middle East (Jordan, Palestine, Israel) in relation to:

Goal 3 – Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

ACTIONS:

- FoEME held workshops for women in Jordan, Palestine and Israel dealing with existing environment & water reality, the promotion of more sustainable water management at the municipal / household level and good governance – 35 workshops

Goal 7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability

- *Target 1 - Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources*

ACTIONS:

- Water scarcity awareness activities – 6,800 youth, 6,000 adults in Jordan, Palestine and Israel.
- Teachers trained in use of "WaterCare" book for school curriculum
- "Mayors Forum" calling for Rehabilitating the Jordan River / Dead Sea
- Helped negotiate declaration; "Mediterranean NGO Declaration for Johannesburg", December 2002, Nice France

- Publication: Jordanian NGO Shadow Report to the Government of Jordan's Assessment of Progress in Implementing Agenda 21, June 2002, Bali, Indonesia
- Publication: Israeli NGO Shadow Report to the Government of Israel's Assessment of Progress in Implementing Agenda 21, June 2002, Bali, Indonesia
- Publication: "The Dead Sea – Between Life and Death, Learning from Other Lakes", October 2002, Ein Bokek, Israel and Amman, Jordan
- Conference: "After Johannesburg, Where Do We Go From Here?", 21 November 2002, Washington DC, The United States
- NGO Discussion Paper: "Participatory Review of Opportunities to Strengthen the Collaboration of UNEP / Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) with Civil Society", Catania, Italy November 2003
- Strategy Workshop: "The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) Formulation Process: NGO Recommendations", Madrid, January 2004
- Publication: Advancing Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dead Sea Basin – Broadening the Debate on Economic and Management Issues", March, 2004, Israel
- Paper: "UNEP / MAP (United Nation Environment Program Mediterranean Action Plan) - NGO Partner Input to the MSSD", October 2004
- Conference: "From Johannesburg to New York via Rome – The Israeli Government's Sustainable Development Strategy in the Mediterranean and Global Contexts", Tel Aviv University, February, 2005
- Stakeholders Conference: "Civil Society Conference on MSSD, Rome, March 2005

- *Target 2 - Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation*

ACTIONS:

- Construction of 25 grey water / rainwater collection systems in schools and municipal buildings, thus providing drinking water otherwise not available
- Produce 3 reports on sanitation solutions above Mountain Aquifer supplying major drinking water source for Palestinians and Israelis

3. FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS KENYA (FIDA KENYA)

(Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)

PART 1: Introduction

(I) The Federation of Women Lawyers –Kenya [FIDA Kenya] is a non-profit, non-partisan and non-governmental membership organization whose vision is to help create a society that is free of discrimination against women.

Work towards the realization of the organizations' vision is undertaken through the following: provision of legal aid to a limited number of needy women; monitoring government's compliance with international women's rights conventions; regional engagement for women's empowerment;

lobbying and advocating for reform of laws that discriminate against women, building strategic partnerships with state and non-state actors, educating women on their legal rights and how to claim them through self-representation in court; research, monitoring and reporting women's rights violations; Undertaking of transformative public interest litigation.

PART II

(i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations Meetings

FIDA Kenya has been able to monitor government's compliance with International Human rights Instruments and the activities undertaken include the following:

- ✓ Attended the 46th Session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) held on 4th – 15th March 2002, at the UN headquarters. FIDA Kenya presented a shadow statement titled "Eradication of poverty, through the empowerment of women through their life cycle in a globalizing world and environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective"

- ✓ FIDA Kenya was part of the government delegation that prepared and submitted the 3rd & 4th Country report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee during its 28th Session on 13th –31st January 2003 in New York. FIDA Kenya also prepared a shadow report on CEDAW.

- ✓ Attended the 47th Session of the CSW in New York, 13-14 March, 2003

- ✓ FIDA Kenya was part of the government delegation to Addis Ababa Ethiopia, on the 24th to 28th March 2003, for a Meeting of Experts and Ministers on the Draft Protocol to the *African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights relating to the rights of Women in Africa*;

- ✓ Preparation and presentation of a statement on the general status of women in Kenya and the work of FIDA Kenya to the 31st Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in May 2003 in Niamey, Niger to representatives of Governments and NGOs from over 30 African countries

- ✓ Presented a Kenyan Country Paper on Human Rights during a training organized by the African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) on 5th May, 2003 to about 30 representatives of NGOs, from Africa.

- ✓ Attended the 48th Session of the CSW in New York, 1st-12th March 2004 and presented a Shadow Statement titled "Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Conflict Management & Conflict Resolution and in Post Conflict Peace Building."

- ✓ FIDA Kenya was part of the Committee that drafted the 1st Country Report on International Convention on Economic Social & Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 2005.

- ✓ Attended the 49th Session of the CSW on 28th February – 11th March 2005, New York. FIDA Kenya presented a shadow statement on " Trafficking in Persons".
- ✓ Jointly with the Center for Reproductive Rights, presented a shadow letter to the Human Rights Committee during its 83rd Session on 14th March – 1st April 2005 in New York.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations and/or specialized agencies in the field and/ or at Headquarters

- ✓ Preparation of shadow statements during the various CSW meetings in New York from 2002 to 2005.
- ✓ Preparation of a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee in 2003.
- ✓ Preparation of shadow statement to the Human Rights Committee on implementation of International Covenant on Civil Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2004.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

FIDA Kenya formed part of the government delegation during the MDGs summit in New York, from 9th – 18th September 2005 where Kenya presented its country report. Activities in line with the MDGS included the following:

- ✓ **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**

ACTION

- ✓ In 2003, distributed sanitary towels to 4000 girls in upper primary and secondary schools countrywide to retain them in school during menstruation
- ✓ In 2003, FIDA lobbied government to zero-rate taxes on sanitary towels.
- ✓ In 2002 and 2003, 300 teachers and education officers trained on gender, human rights and gender based violence in schools.
- ✓ Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women
  - Between 2002-2005, 220 Government officials and parliamentarians sensitized on women's rights and international instruments and means of domesticating the same.
  - Lobbied parliamentarians to pass the following Bills: -

Domestic Violence Family Protection Bill; Sexual Offences Bill; Equality Bill; Affirmative Action Bill; The National Commission on Gender and Development Bill (Passed into law in 2003)

- FIDA Kenya assisted Eritrean Women organizations in compiling their first CEDAW reporting 2003
- Presented a paper on the use of law to safeguard women's rights to health during a meeting in Hom Netherlands on developing a Gender Impact Assessment Tool using CEDAW and ICESCR from 16th – 20th June 2003.
- Provided legal advice and representation to a total of 8289 clients, in 2002; 11,023 in 2003; 14,927 in 2004 and 11,107 in 2005.
- Hosted activities to create awareness on human rights/ gender based violence
- Trained 200 community based monitors and paralegals countrywide to monitor gender-based violations at the grass roots.
- Trained 6,500 police officers and 175 chiefs on human rights, family law, succession law and handling of victims of gender-based violations.
- Published a Police Training Manual on Gender & Human Rights in 2002.
- During the constitutional review process 2002-2004 published various manuals and publications that were used to engender the draft constitution
- Participated in activities on engendering the political process to ensure successful participation of women in 2002 general elections.
- Training of 20 judges and 200 lawyers on Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Production of Annual reports on the status of women's rights in Kenya.
- Production of IEC materials for lobbying and advocacy on implementation of women's rights.

✓ **Goal 5: Improve maternal health**

- Sensitized medical officers from two regions in Kenya on how to identify, counsel and refer victims of gender based violations such as rape, defilement
- Drafted a Health Rights of Woman Assessment Instrument (HERWAI) in collaboration with the Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM), Utrecht, the Netherlands. HERWAI has been tested in Kenya and is a lobbying tool primarily meant to be used to target national governments to implement women's rights to health.

ii) Activities in support of Global Principles

International Women's Day, International Human Rights Day, World Population Day, the Day of the African Child, World Aids Day and World Human Rights Day have been observed and celebrated by the organization in collaboration with other stakeholders in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

4. IPAS

Special Consultative Status granted in 1998

I. Introduction

Ipas has contributed significantly to UN conferences and activities since obtaining consultative status in 1998. Ipas staff have participated in UN special sessions and related preparatory meetings; served

as technical experts to regional commissions and UN specialized agencies; and participated in interregional working groups with UN bodies. Ipas has produced several publications relevant to UN recommendations and disseminated them worldwide.

Founded in 1973, Ipas is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) which works globally to increase women's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and to reduce abortion-related deaths and injuries. Ipas believes that every woman has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, to safe reproductive choices, and high-quality health care.

Ipas is not a membership organization but has staff in five regions of the world. In January 2002, Ipas had 139 staff members in twelve country offices: Brazil, Bolivia, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, the United States of America, and Vietnam. In December 2005 there were 135 staff members, the office in Peru had closed and an office in Nepal had opened. Ipas also works through partners or consultants in Albania, Romania, and a number of countries in Africa.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings.

Ipas staff participated actively in the following UN meetings as NGO observers and advocates for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, in line with the International Conference on Population and development Program of Action (ICPD PoA):

- **Ten-year Anniversary of the ICPD PoA:** Ipas was represented and advocated for the reaffirmation of the ICPD PoA at the European Population Forum, convened by the UN Economic Commission for Europe in partnership with UNFPA (Geneva, Switzerland, 12-14 January 2004); the Ad Hoc Committee for Population and Development for the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile, March 2004); the Economic Commission for Africa Ministerial Conference on ICPD at 10 (Dakar, Senegal, June 2004); the sessional meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 2004); and the UN General Assembly Day of Commemoration on ICPD (UN Headquarters, October 2004).
- Annual participation in the 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th sessions of the **Commission on Population and Development** in New York.
- **Commission on the Status of Women** in New York (48th Session, 1-12 March 2004, including submission of a statement on neglected issues regarding reproductive health care for women living with HIV/AIDS signed by 27 international and national NGO networks; 49th Session, 28 February-11 March 2005 including a written statement and organization of a press conference on the importance of reaffirming commitments from Beijing and ICPD; 50th Session, 27 February-10 March 2006, including a statement on the reproductive rights of women living with HIV, signed by NGOs around the world).

- United Nations General Assembly **Special Session on Children**, 4-10 May 2002, New York, where Ipas served as a member of a global NGO advocacy network focused on sexual and reproductive health needs of young people.
- 30th Session of the **CEDAW Committee**, reviewing the combined 4th and 5th periodic reports for Nigeria, 19-20 January, 2004, New York.
- Participation in the Ninth Session of the **Regional Conference on Women** in Latin America and the Caribbean, 10-12 June 2004, Mexico City.
- Observer at the 57th **World Health Assembly**, 17-21 May 2004, Geneva.
- Participation in **Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights: Reducing Poverty and Achieving the MDGs**, 5-6 October 2004, a Technical Meeting organized by UNFPA, Stockholm, Sweden.

Oral statements made by Ipas

- Oral intervention by Ipas-Nigeria Country Director to CEDAW Committee on Nigeria's combined 4th and 5th periodic reports, 19-20 January 2004.
- Oral statements to the 35th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, April 2002 on unsafe abortion and ICPD; 37th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, March 24, 2004 on unsafe abortion as part of the ICPD PoA and achievement of MDGs; and 38th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, entitled "Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS: neglected issues of concern for women and girls".

Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

Ipas worked closely with the **World Health Organization** at all levels, including the following:

- Drafting, finalizing, and disseminating the 2003 WHO publication, *Safe Abortion: Technical and policy guidance for health systems*.
- Participation as invited Observer at the annual meeting of the Policy and Coordination Committee of the UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproductive, June 2005 and June 2006
- Consultancy on HIV/AIDS, pregnancy and abortion, including recommendations for changes in WHO policies and documents, and future areas for research (2004).
- Collaboration with WHO's Department of Reproductive Health and Research and the Regional Offices for Europe, South East Asia, and Western Pacific to organize regional meetings on the Strategic Approach for Improving Quality of Care in Abortion and Related Reproductive Health Services (Latvia, June 2004 and Bangkok, June 2005).
- Collaboration with PAHO-WHO in two regional meetings for Latin America on violence against women (August and September 2005).
- Collaboration with **UNFPA** includes completion of a consultancy (through EngenderHealth) to write sections of a policy framework on reproductive health services for women living with

HIV/AIDS and to co-moderate an e-forum on reproductive health for women living with HIV/AIDS.

Contributions to human rights treaty monitoring bodies

- Submitted comments to the CEDAW committee on General Recommendation 26 regarding Article 2 of the CEDAW convention, July 2004 and on its proposed draft of the General Recommendation 27 on Migrant Women, December 2005.
- Submitted a shadow letter to the Human Rights Committee regarding Brasil's adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, May 2005.

Action in implementation of United Nation resolutions

Ipas's mission parallels the recommendations in paragraph 63iii of the Key Actions for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/S-21/5/Add.1), adopted by the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, New York, 30 June – 2 July 1999. Ipas has also worked with a number of countries to help address abortion-related maternal mortality in support of achieving MDG #5. Specific activities include:

- Preparing an invited background paper for the Millennium Project (October 2004). (http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Crane_and_Hord-Smith-final.pdf) and comments on the Reproductive Health Task Force report (November 2004).
- Produced a simple practical tool with which NGOs can monitor benchmarks related to the Millennium Development Goals on maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS.
- Produced and disseminated a briefing paper on unsafe abortion and the MDGs (available: http://www.ipas.org/publications/en/MDGFLY_E05_en.pdf)

5. NETWORK OF EAST WEST WOMEN (NEWW)

Special Consultative Status granted in 2002

Part 1 (Introduction)

Network of East West Women (NEWW) is international communication and resource network supporting dialogue, informational exchange, and activism among those concerned about the status of women in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the Central Independent States (CIS), former Soviet Union (FSU) and the Russian Federation (RF). NEWW coordinates research and advocacy supporting women's equality and full participation in all aspects of life. NEWW membership comes from all over the world but it definitely tries to focus on the region of CEE/CIS. Now NEWW has 313 individual members from 43 countries and 97 organizational members from 31 countries. NEWW connects women's advocates who work in partnership to promote women's rights and to strengthen women's role within civil society. NEWW members represent all strata of society - human rights activists, journalists, lawyers, parliamentarians, professors, and feminist activists. NEWW's overarching goal is to support the formation of independent women's movements and to strengthen the capacities of

women and women's non governmental organizations (NGOs) to influence policy regarding women's lives. NEWW supports and promotes projects and activism inspired by NEWW Statement of Principles: women's full and equal participation in the creation of a just and inclusive civil society; women's and men's right to be free of discrimination of any kind --structural or legal in employment in both the public and the private sector; women's (and men's) right to economic justice, including an adequate and accessible safety-net for vulnerable members of society; women's (and men's) right to be free of violence in the private and the public sphere, to be free of war, state violence and domination in all its forms; women's (and men's) right to be free of racial and ethnic hatred. In 2004 NEWW moved its headquarters from the United States of America to the region of CEE. It has been an important step towards strengthening the role of the regional voice in the organization. Now, the International Secretariat of NEWW is run by NEWW-Polska in Gdansk.

Part 2 (activities undertaken during the ongoing period)

From the beginning of 2002 NEWW in cooperation with UNIFEM and Karat Coalition ran two years project Gender and Economic Justice in European Accession and Integration" The vision of the project was to use forthcoming integration with the European Union (EU) to strengthen women's economic rights and gender equality. The development objectives for the project included: promoting gender and economic justice for women in CEE and fostering a better understanding and cooperation between the EU and other countries of Europe, towards a vision for Europe where all citizens are equal, whether from the EU or CEE, regardless of their gender. Project objectives were: women from CEE benefited from the EU integration process, women from CEE supported their own governments and national negotiating teams in the preparations for EU integration; EU standards regarding gender equality promoted better respect for women's rights in CEE countries and gave them adequate protection. NEWW was responsible for the informational and communicational part of project including a website, production of information packages about the EU and women, publications (including a bi-weekly news update), research and electronic communication sessions in the workshops. The project was addressed to NGOs and individuals from CEE and CIS, from candidate and non-candidate countries. It used the process of European Union Accession to advance women's rights and gender equality.

During 2002 and 2003 project Women's Economic Justice Network: Strengthening Feminist Economic Expertise in Central and Eastern Europe / Newly Independent States CEE/NIS was ran in cooperation with UNIFEM The project was a direct result of the 2001 Gender Policy Conference, organized by NEWW in July 2001 in Krakow. All participants at that conference agreed that the lack of economic information and information regarding the pace and processes of market reform and globalization kept women and women's NGOs from engaging in these issues. Women in CEE/CIS needed information and regional networks to educate themselves and one another, and to undertake collaborative advocacy initiatives. The project made available the following types of information: economic literacy (What, for example, was structural adjustment, and how were stabilization packages formulated?); economic transactions (How, for example, could women's NGOs monitor economic policies and transactions from a gender perspective?); points of policy intervention (How could women's NGOs shape and participate in economic decision-making processes at the local, national, regional and international levels.) The project collected, analyzed, translated and

disseminated documents and information through the website in 3 languages: Russian, English and Polish.

In 24 – 27 April 2003 in Gdansk, Poland NEWW in cooperation with UNIFEM held their second Gender Policy Conference, "Women and Economy". Over 60 women from 18 countries in CEE, CIS, RF, the United States of America and EU participated in the conference. This Conference focused on three areas of economic policymaking: European Structural Funds (ESF), Gender Budgeting (GB) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The Conference ran in three concurrent training sessions. Mainstreaming Gender into the ESF - the main aim of this workshop was to gain greater expertise about ESF. The introduction of gender mainstreaming of ESF and advocacy initiatives on gender budget analysis in CEE/NIS made a critical contribution to addressing the widespread discrimination and inequalities in the use of public resources in the region. Gender Responsive Budgeting - the session introduced to the idea of gender budgeting (GB) and asked the following questions: What were the methods of GB, how can GB be introduced in the countries of CEE/NIS, what the good practices in the field of gender budgeting. Foreign Direct Investment - a gender analysis of foreign direct investment in CEE/NIS was another tool that women's NGOs could use to engage in economic and social policy decision making. The Conference session on FDI helped to create a roadmap of FDI in countries; create/examine "women friendly investment" standards and codes as well as identify the points of intervention for women's NGOs; and methods of attracting "good investments".

In 14th and 18th of April 2004 (Sopot, Poland) NEWW in cooperation wit UNIFEM organized Gender Budgeting Initiative (GBI) in CEE/NIS region - planning meeting. It brought together women's NGOs from the region with a commitment to carry out gender budget projects to coordinate and support the development and implementation of these projects along with resulting advocacy initiatives. The meeting aimed to build network of cooperation within the CEE/NIS between women's NGOs in order to disseminate information about gender budgeting and develop the project of implementation GB in the region. This project based on information sharing, dissemination of research and partnership building and enabled NEWW-Polska and other organizations from the region to work on further advancing of the first gender budget analysis in CEE/NIS.

In 10-12 December 2003 (Geneva) our representative Malgorzata Tarasiewicz participated in The World Summit on the Information Society which was held in Geneva, Switzerland. She was a member of the editorial team of "Digital Futures" magazine on women and Information and Communication Technologies.

In 9 – 11 December 2004 (Geneva) NEWW Executive Director Malgorzata Tarasiewicz participated in Beijing+10 Geneva PrepCom meeting which was held in Geneva, Switzerland. She participated in the regional CEE/CIS Caucus working to formulate concerns of women form CEE/CIS and evaluate the way Beijing Platform for Action (BFA) was implemented in the countries in CEE/CIS region.

In 28 February-11 March 2005 (New York) NEWW was represented by Malgorzata Tarasiewicz on Beijing +10 Conference: Forty-Ninth Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, New York, United Nations Headquarters. NEWW coordinated the work of Polish women NGOs on a shadow report on the implementation of BFA Report concentrated on economic justice issues including the

issue of women's empowerment through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and gender budget. The reports were published in Polish and English, also on NEWW website.

In 12th-15th June 2005 (Brussels) NEWW representatives Malgorzata Tarasiewicz and Zofia Lapniewska were invited by United Nations Development Fund for Women to Brussels to join other Gender Equality advocates in CEE and the Commonwealth of Independent States in raising concern over the apparent gap between the European Union's commitment to advance gender equality and its translation into policy, action, and allocation of resources as reflected in EU assistance to countries of the region. NEWW was invited to learn more about the new financial instruments, which were guide EU support to the CEE/CIS between 2007 and 2013. The visit provided an opportunity to meet with Brussels-based NGOs, as well as with the European Parliament and European Commission officials, to share and discuss specific concerns related to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument and the Stability Instrument.

In 8-9 December 2005 (Geneva) NEWW was invited to Geneva by UN Special Programme for Central Asia (SPECA) to share the experiences of Gender Budgeting on local level as well as the idea of the Women's Economy Institute that was going to start in spring in CEE/CIS countries and could be duplicated in Asia. The main purpose of the two days meeting that took place in Geneva was to stimulate a discussion on the mandate and work programme. It looked at gender "links" to core areas of SPECA activities in the context of current situation and policy challenges creating pro-poor growth strategy, addressing problems of rural population, mobilizing human capital, and argued that that taking a gender perspective in addressing these challenges made good economic sense.